

Plenary Session 6

July 26, 2018 - 9:30 AM



St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018

Diocesan Movie

Diocese of New York and New Jersey



St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018

Diocesan Movies

Romanian Episcopate



St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018

Diocesan Movies

Diocese of the South



St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018

Election to Church-wide Offices

Fr. Daniel Mathewson

Chair of the Tellers Committee



St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018

Election Procedures

- **Metropolitan Council:**
 - 2 Clergy positions for 3 (4) year term, 1 Alternate
 - 2 Lay positions for 3 (4) year term, 1 Alternate
- **Pension Board:**
 - 1 Clergy position for 6 (8) year term, 1 Clergy position for 3 (4) year term and 1 Alternate
 - 1 Lay position for 6 (8) year term. 1 Lay position for 3 (4) year term and 1 Alternate

Election Procedures

- Each voting delegate gets one ballot
- Mark your three choices for each position on the ballot (i.e. 3 choices for clergy at-large MC member, 3 choices for lay at-large MC member...)
- Fold ballot in half and hand to teller
- Illegible or incorrectly marked ballots will be invalidated
- Two persons with highest votes get positions and third highest is alternate. In case of Pension Board, top vote gets 6(8) year term, second gets 3(4) term and third gets alternate.

Nominees to Church-wide Offices

- Metropolitan Council

- Pension Board

Election to Church-wide Offices

Mark and hand in your ballot to the Tellers



St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018

Forum Feedback

Selected Forum Participants



St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018

Forums

Forum 1: Spiritual Life

Forum 2: Care of Clergy

Forum 3: Stewardship

Forum 4: External Affairs

Forum 5: Mission and Evangelism

Forum 6: Care of a Community



Office of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations Report

Protopresbyter Leonid Kishkovsky
Director



St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018

Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the United States Report

Archbishop Michael

Treasurer of the Assembly of Bishops



St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018

Departments Reports

Chairs of the Departments of the Orthodox Church in
America



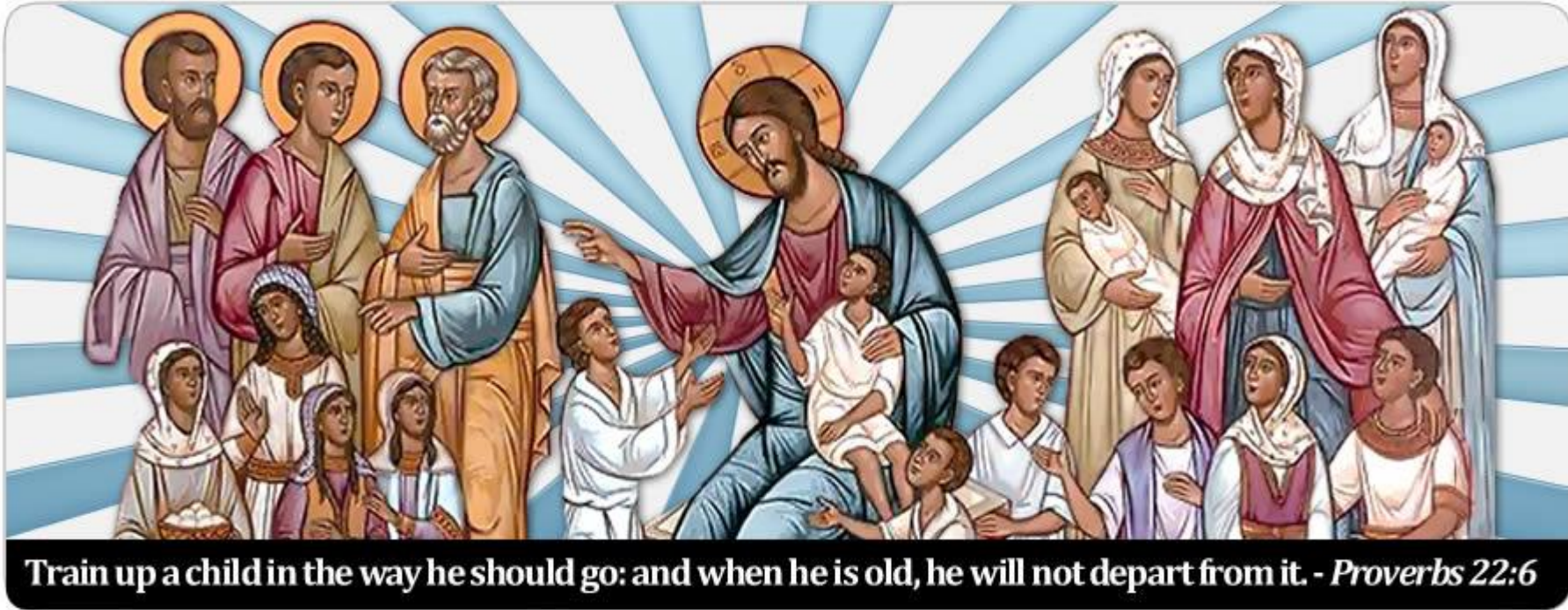
St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018

Department of Christian Education

Valerie Zahirsky
Chair



St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018



dce.oca.org

Department of Christian Education Orthodox Church in America

His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin – *Episcopal Liaison*

Chairperson / OCEC Representative

at alerie ahisky
embers

eronica ilas

at yia ovalak

aria roch

ewelam tefanar

at lexandra afchuk


at histine ebrun

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission and focus of the Department of Christian Education is the support of church school teachers, clergy, families and others engaged in faith formation for every age level. Serving with the blessing and guidance of The Holy Synod of Bishops of The Orthodox Church in America, this department provides a variety of services including:

- Web-based study units consisting of age-appropriate lesson plans and activities.
 - Workshops and retreats for church school teachers and staff as well as other parish members.
 - Training in the use of the curriculum and resources.
 - Review and recommendation of educational resources.
 - Production of resources for parish use.
- 



Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it. - *Proverbs 22:6*

Activity Books

Supplemental Orthodox Educational
Activities for Children & Parents



THE
ORTHODOX
FAITH

Completed study materials for
Fr. Hopko's
"The Orthodox Faith"
series now available

[Learn More](#)



Bulletin Inserts

Weekly Topics Include Scripture Commentaries,
Lives of Saints, Movie Reviews & Much More

FOCUS Units

- [Journey to Pascha](#)
- [My Orthodox Family](#)
- [The Nativity Season](#)
- [The Theotokos](#)
- [View All FOCUS Units](#)

Mini Units

- [2005 OCAY Theme](#)
- [2006 OCAY Theme](#)
- [2007 OCAY Theme](#)
- [Charity Appeal](#)
- [View All Mini Units](#)

Teacher Resources

- [Handouts](#)
- [Liturgical Texts](#)
- [Activities](#)
- [Articles](#)
- [View All Teacher Resources](#)

Biblical Themes of Salvation-History

A Basic Outline for Teachers and Parents

Creation	Fall	Promise	Preparation	Incarnation	Redemption	Church	Kingdom
LIFE	Death	Covenant	Law/Prophets	Son of God	Death/Resurr.	New Life	Salvation
God creates the World	Sin and Temptation	Abraham obeys God	Moses saves God's people	Mary says "yes" to God	Jesus is baptized	Jesus returns to the Father	God gives life eternal
He makes man/woman	Adam/Eve disobey God	Father of a great nation	The Exodus from Egypt	God sends His Son Jesus	He brings God's Word	He sends the Holy Spirit	He will come again
Made in God's image	Separated from God	Isaac, Jacob, 12 tribes-Israel	God gives tablets of Law	Jesus is born as Man	He loves and heals	The Church is born	He comes to judge
Given care of God's world	Expelled from Paradise	The Covenant with God	David-Solomon Temple worship	Jesus comes to save us	He gives His life for us	Baptism gives new life	He brings a new creation
Communion with God	No longer live with God	Period of the Patriarchs	Period of the Prophets	He comes to bring new life	He rises from the dead	The Eucharist is God in us	A new heaven & new earth

Charts developed by Dr. Constance Tarasac 1995/ revised 2001. All rights reserved.

Cognition in Children and Suggestions for Developing Biblical Knowledge and Skills

Level 1 (4-7 yrs.)	Level 2 (8-12 yrs.)	Level 3 (13 & above)
<p>Intuitive thinking: Pre-logical, imaginative, "magical" stage</p> <p>Understanding is determined by perceptions (how the child "sees it"), which is not always the reality</p> <p>Persons, stories and events are isolated and/or unrelated</p> <p>May focus only on one element, often peripheral, ignoring others. Can easily miss the main point.</p> <p>God is perceived as anthropomorphic, "humanized" & often understood as a parental-figure</p>	<p>Evolving logical thinking, but limited to concrete realities, understandings</p> <p>Can distinguish the real from the imaginary; can order things in sequence or group into classes</p> <p>Can tell a story from beginning to end, and relate characters to events</p> <p>Can investigate or look up simple information and relate pieces of information to one another.</p> <p>(10-12 yrs.) Can find and use (with guidance) pictures and maps of biblical places and events.</p>	<p>Logical abstract thinking develops, uses comparisons, metaphors</p> <p>Can reason abstractly, "in his head," work with propositions and hypotheses, and test his logic</p> <p>Has a sense of time and space, and emerging consciousness of history.</p> <p>Can develop Time-lines, rewrite or "translate" events into contemporary terms (e.g., TV news reports)</p> <p>Can compare a biblical text with a liturgical hymn or verse of the same event, drawing parallels/conclusions</p>
<p>Teachers or parents should tell (not read) a good story, using conversation and dialogue. Select short texts/phrases for emphasis or ask questions to elicit responses from children.</p>	<p>Show students how to find a biblical reference, going step by step with them. Help them distinguish between Old/New Testament persons and events (e.g., what/who comes before or after the life of Jesus on earth).</p>	<p>Help students to use a Gospel Parallels to examine common texts within the Gospels, and to use a Concordance, Bible Dictionaries and commentaries. Help them compare bible texts and translations.</p>
<p>Focus on naming, and identifying persons, places and things. Use icons to identify and retell stories.</p> <p>Role-play (act out) behavior of characters. Make & use puppets.</p>	<p>Learn prokemeia, alleluia or communion verses related to biblical feasts. Learn to sing the refrains.</p> <p>Make murals in panels to show the sequence and relation of events.</p>	<p>Encourage students to use psalms for personal prayer and meditation; develop a pattern of Bible reading.</p> <p>Show how to locate and prepare texts for reading in church.</p>

• Family Tree

Levels: Preschool, Primary and above.

Materials Needed:

Large (12 x 18") sheets of green construction paper (allow 1-2 sheets per student. Pre-cut into a wide bushy shapes (using whole sheet). →

Photocopies in color or black & white of pictures from each family: parents or guardian, children, grandparents, cousins/aunts, uncles that they see often, etc. (Suggest about 4-6 photos per child. Bring to class in envelope with child's name on top.)

Plastic round tops from smaller containers, plastic glasses, or any item that can be used to trace circles (1 ½ -2" in diameter, graduated sizes).

Pencils, blunt scissors, paste, glue or glue sticks.

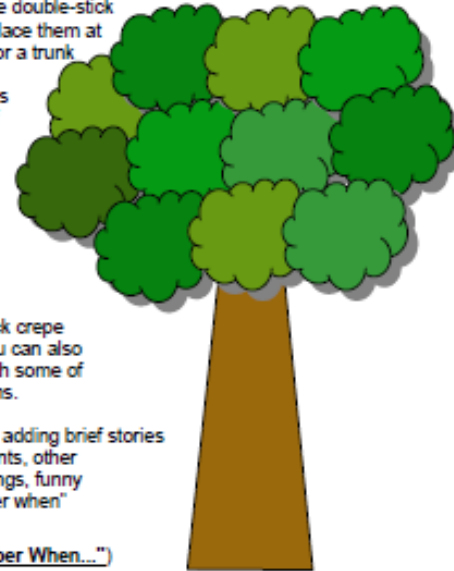
Sheet of small 1-1 ½" wide white stickers

Mary T. -cousin



Procedure: (Note: It would be good to have 1-2 teen or parent helpers for this project)

1. **Part 1: Clusters of branches.** (You will need a large wall for the completed project.)
Select the best pictures of your family and see what fits best on your green bushy paper.
2. Select a glass or round tops to place on the pictures so that a circle can be made around the person or persons' pictures. Draw circles and cut away the background that is not needed. Older students could cut out red apples instead of circles and paste pictures on the apples.
3. Place the pictures where you want them on the paper (you can also use a light pencil to make the circles so you will know where to paste the pictures).
4. Glue or paste the pictures on your "bush." Have children (or parents) identify family members on pictures, and have an adult print the names or relationship on the stickers below their pictures.
5. Tape the green "bushes" on the wall (or use double-stick tape or velcro and stick on a large sheet. Place them at the top (allowing space at the bottom half for a trunk and roots that will be added in session 4). Shape the top area to look like the branches of leaves on a tree to see all the clusters of families that the students represent.
6. **Part 2: Tree Trunk**
Cut out photos from parish albums or take pictures of parish organizations: women's and men's clubs, church school, teen group, choir, priest and servers, parish council, etc. Complete the tree by adding trunk and roots, with pictures of the "Parish Family." Use strips of brown or black crepe paper coming down from the branches. You can also extend "beneath" the ground the "roots" with some of the parish leaders from previous generations.
7. **Level 1-2—**Make an expanded family tree, adding brief stories or anecdotes about grandparents, godparents, other family members (e.g., nicknames, happenings, funny or important moments or events, "remember when" stories).
8. (Cf. Family Memories Album—"Remember When...")



Good Disobedience and Bad Disobedience

Department of
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ORTHODOX CHURCH in AMERICA

This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.



On March 30 we read Mark 1: 35-44. The passage shows that while He was doing great miracles on earth, Jesus Christ still remained obedient to His Father.

The passage begins in the very early morning. During the previous evening, Jesus has healed a great number of people and cast out demons, forbidding them even to speak. Now, well before the sun is up, He goes out alone to pray. Jesus never depends on His own power to heal and subdue demons. He constantly prays and submits Himself to His Father's will.

Another passage read on this day encourages us to pray often, and to help each other be faithful and obedient to God, as Jesus is to His Father: "But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today,' that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we share in Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end..." (Hebrews 3: 13-14). We need to pray constantly and renew our faith and our commitment to it.

Jesus, in the passage from Mark, is given little time for His private prayers. Very soon, Simon Peter and the others "pursue" Him, and find Him. Again He is obedient, leaving His remote place to go among the people and preach to them, as He came to do.

We soon see a reason why Jesus needs to renew His strength in prayer—because even those who receive great blessings from Him do not always listen to Him. A leper begs Him for healing, and Jesus grants it. But when Jesus "sternly charges" him not to say anything to anyone except the priests, the man promptly goes out to "spread the news." As a result of this disobedience, Jesus can "no longer enter a town." Yet His own obedience to His Father never wavers; He has come to preach and to save, and He will continue to do so.

On March 28 we remember Saint Hilary the New, who gives us an example of good disobedience. He lived peacefully in the early 9th century as leader of the Dalmatus monastery until the Imperial government was taken over by iconoclasts—those who

fiercely opposed the veneration of icons, partly because they misinterpreted the Old Testament's prohibition of graven images. Hilary revered icons, and fearlessly accused the emperor of heresy. He was quickly imprisoned.

Hilary's monks successfully begged for his release, promising to adhere to the law against honoring icons. But once back in their monastery, they resumed veneration of the holy images. The emperor soon discovered Hilary's disobedience, having assigned men to watch him closely. Once again Hilary was imprisoned, and tortured.

Freed by the next emperor, Hilary lived quietly at the monastery until his death in 845. His life shows that there is such a thing as good disobedience, because sometimes it is actually obedience to God's will, like the obedience of His Son—the Son who came in the flesh and thus allowed us to depict Him in icons.

Kontakion - Tone 4

Righteous Hilary,
like a fruitful olive tree that has blossomed,
with your oil you mystically make radiant
those who sing to you:
"Rejoice, unwavering ruler of the righteous."

The Sad Duties of a Prophet

Department of
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

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Map 25
The division of the Kingdom



20).

But Jeroboam fears that his subjects might want to return to Jerusalem, which is not under his control, to worship in the Temple. So he has two golden calves made, and tells his people, "You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up out of the land of Egypt" (12: 28b). He offers sacrifices on the altars of the calves he's made.

Not only are Ahijah's hopes dashed, but his next encounter with King Jeroboam, or rather the king's wife, is heartbreaking. Jeroboam's son is taken ill, and the king tells his wife to go to Ahijah to ask what will happen to the child. Knowing how he has disappointed the prophet, Jeroboam tells her to meet Ahijah in disguise so he won't know her. But God reveals her coming to Ahijah, and instructs him to tell her that evil will come upon Jeroboam's house because he has misused the gifts God gave him. She returns home with this terrible news, and as she reaches her threshold, the boy dies.

Paul writes in I Thessalonians, read on this day, "...we had courage in our God to declare to you the Gospel of God in spite of great opposition" (2: 1b).

Ahijah needed that same courage to deliver his unwelcome message to a disappointing king. Jeroboam used his free will to turn decisively from God, and Ahijah had to be the one to tell him what the consequences of his terrible folly would be.

On November 12th the Church honors the prophet Ahijah, who lived in the time of Solomon and the kings who followed him.

Solomon, of course, is one of most important kings of the Old Testament. He pleased God by asking for wisdom rather than more worldly gifts, and was given that gift as well as others. He was a poet, writer, and an architect skilled enough to oversee construction of the Temple in Jerusalem. An able diplomat, he secured peace with neighboring nations, and then was able to increase Israel's trade and wealth.

But Chapter 11 of 1st Kings/3rd Kingdom records God's displeasure with Solomon's squandering of his gifts. We read in 11:1 that he took as lovers "Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian and Hittite women" even though God had told the Israelites, "You shall not enter into marriage with them...for they will surely incline your heart to follow their gods."

Ahijah is the prophet to whom God gives the task of telling Jeroboam that God has chosen him to succeed Solomon. Ahijah, wearing a new garment, meets Jeroboam on the road. As a sign of what the future will bring, the prophet tears his garment into twelve pieces, and tells Jeroboam that God intends to "tear the kingdom from the hand of Solomon" and give Jeroboam ten tribes.

Undoubtedly Ahijah has great hopes for Jeroboam's rule. After all, God has chosen him and saved him from Solomon's murderous wrath, and has allowed him to be named "king over all Israel" (12:

THE ORTHODOX FAITH

Thomas Hopko
Volume 1
*Doctrine
& Scripture*



With Illustrations by Andrew Tegshen

1

THE ORTHODOX FAITH

Thomas Hopko
Volume 2
Worship



With Illustrations by Andrew Tegshen

2

THE ORTHODOX FAITH

Thomas Hopko
Volume 3
*Church
History*



Revised & Expanded by
DAVID C. FORD

3

THE ORTHODOX FAITH

Thomas Hopko
Volume 4
Spirituality



With Illustrations by Andrew Tegshen

4

Saint Alexis Toth

Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in America

2 St. Alexis studied hard to prepare for priestly ministry.

3 He was ordained to the Greek Catholic priesthood in 1878.

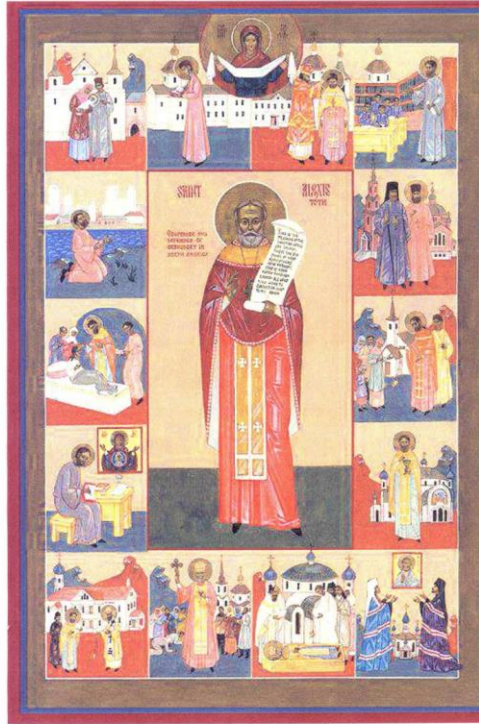
1 St. Alexis was born in the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1854. His father was a Greek Catholic, or "Uniate," priest, while his uncle was a bishop.

5 In 1889, he arrived in the US to serve as pastor of St. Mary's Greek Catholic Church, Minneapolis, MN.

7 St. Alexis zealously fulfilled his priestly ministry, including comforting the sick and infirm.

9 St. Alexis wrote and published many educational resources for the enlightenment of his flock.

11 St. Alexis offered much assistance to St. Tikhon, Bishop of North America, and helped establish St. Tikhon's Monastery and Orphanage.



4 In addition to his priestly ministry, St. Alexis taught Church history and canon law at the Greek Catholic seminary in Presov.

6 In 1891, he and the faithful of St. Mary's were received into the Orthodox Church by Bishop Vladimir of the Aleutians.

8 Although he was materially poor, St. Alexis always helped the needy.

10 In 1893, St. Alexis was reassigned to Wilkes-Barre, PA, where he led many Greek Catholics back to Orthodox Christianity.

14 In 1994, St. Alexis was glorified as a saint of the Church during the annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage to St. Tikhon's Monastery.

12 Through St. Alexis' tireless missionary travels and preaching, many were converted to the Orthodox Christian Faith.

13 St. Alexis reposed in 1909. Seven years later, his body was transferred to St. Tikhon's Monastery, where it is enshrined to this day.

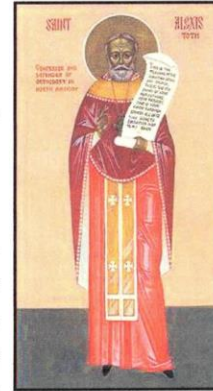
Saint Alexis Toth

Saint Alexis Toth

Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in America

Our holy Father Alexis Toth was born in the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1854 [1]. His father and brother were priests of the Greek Catholic Church, while his uncle was a bishop. [Citizens of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, who traditionally had been of the Orthodox Christian Faith, were compelled to enter into communion with the Roman Catholic Church after the Union of Uzhhorod in 1646. Known thereafter as "Greek Catholics," or "Uniates" – a term that, while originally derogatory in nature, enjoyed wide popular acceptance – they were permitted to retain certain practices, customs and liturgical practices common to and rooted in Orthodox Christianity.]

Alexis was always close to the Church, and began studies for the priesthood. An excellent student; he was fluent in Latin, German, Magyar and Russian, and acquired a reading knowledge of Greek [2]. In 1878, he married the former Rosalie Mihalich, whose father also was a priest. Later the same year, he was ordained to the priesthood [3] and assigned associate pastor of a Greek Catholic parish. Tragedy soon followed as both his wife and their only child died. Father Alexis was filled with grief, but continued to serve God with love and prayerful dedication. The next year brought new responsibilities as Father Alexis began teaching Church History and Canon Law at the seminary in Presov [4]. He also served as secretary to the Bishop of Presov and Administrator of the Diocese.



Greater changes were to come. In October 1889, Father Alexis was sent to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he had been assigned pastor of Saint Mary's Greek Catholic parish [5]. Soon after his arrival, he called on the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, John Ireland, who refused to recognize him as a Catholic priest or allow him to serve in his diocese. [Archbishop Ireland, perhaps not well versed in Greek Rite Catholicism, questioned how Father Alexis could have been a Catholic priest since he had been married.] After further difficulties, Father Alexis appealed to the Russian Orthodox Church, the North American head of which lived in San Francisco. On March 25, 1891, he and 361 parishioners of Saint Mary's Church were received into the Orthodox Church of their ancestors by Bishop Vladimir of the Aleutian Islands and Alaska [6].

Father Alexis was very devoted to his flock, healing and comforting the sick [7] and, despite his personal poverty and that of his flock, giving generously to those in need [8]. Using his broad education and experience, he wrote and published many educational resources explaining the differences between the true faith of Orthodox Christianity and other faiths and offering practical advice on living an Orthodox Christian life [9].

The year 1893 brought another major change in Father Alexis' life as he was transferred to the parish in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, which would be his home for the rest of his life [10]. He was soon called upon to help Saint Tikhon – at that time the Ruling Bishop and later Archbishop of the North American Church – in establishing Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk Monastery and Orphanage in South Canaan, Pennsylvania [11]. Father Alexis traveled far and wide to proclaim Orthodox Christianity while encouraging Greek Catholics to return to their ancestral faith [12]. Though humble about his own abilities, he was a true missionary. He has been credited with inspiring tens of thousands of former Greek Catholics to embrace the Orthodox Faith.

Saint Alexis died on May 7, 1909. Seven years after his death, his body was transferred from Wilkes-Barre to a prominent burial site behind the altar of Saint Tikhon Monastery Church [13]. At that time, it was discovered that his remains were incorrupt.

On May 29-30, 1994, the Rite of Glorification of Saint Alexis was celebrated during the annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage to Saint Tikhon Monastery [14].

O Holy Father Alexis, pray unto God for us! ■

SAINTS

WHO WERE PHYSICIANS & HEALERS



An Activity Book for Orthodox Children and Parents
Department of Christian Education • Orthodox Church in America

WORD SUDUKO

St. Seraphim of Sarov – Venerable Wonder-worker

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares with the correct words.

There are three very simple constraints to follow in a 6 by 6 square Sudoku game:

- Every ROW of 6 words must include all 6 words in any order.
- Every COLUMN of 6 words must include all 6 words in any order.
- Every 3 by 2 SUBSECTION of the 6 by 6 square must include all 6 words.

	Kursk			Seraphim	
Sarov	Seraphim			Kursk	
	Prokhor		Canonization		
				Novice	Kursk
		Prokhor			Novice

St. Alexander Nevsky's Travels







ORTHODOX

SURPRISES





Department of Christian Services and Humanitarian Aid

Donna Karabin

Chair



St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018



DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE & HUMANITARIAN AID

PARISH MINISTRIES and
MATTHEW 25 OUTREACH

FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD

CSHA MEMBERS

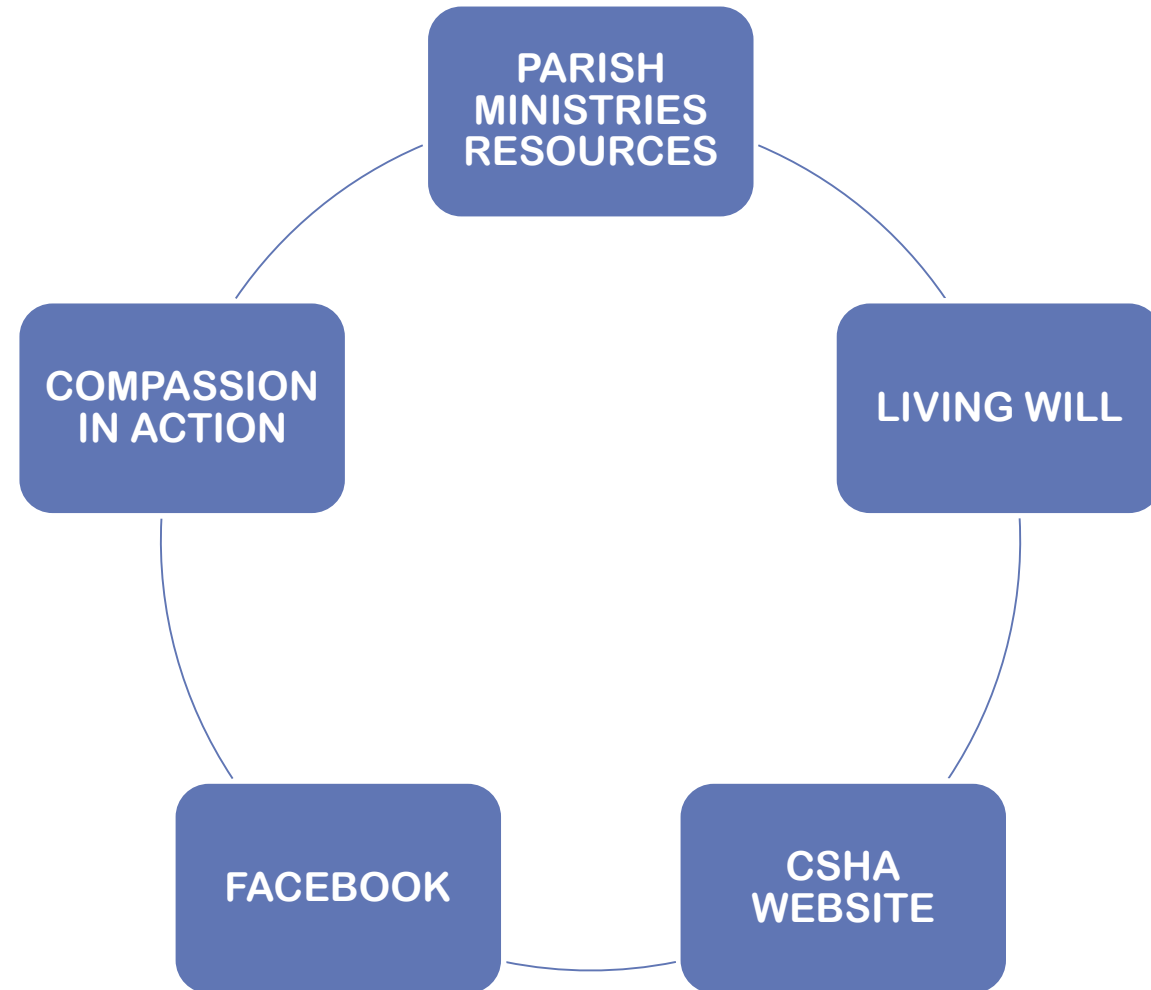
- ❖ Donna Karabin, Chair
 - ❖ Chaplain (1LT) Timothy Yates
 - ❖ Priest Seth Earl
 - ❖ Arlene Kallaur
 - ❖ Diana Pasca
 - ❖ Susan Schlasta
 - ❖ Nancy Van Dyken
-
- ❖ The Most Reverend Melchisedek,
Archbishop of Pittsburgh and WPA
Episcopal Liaison to the Holy Synod

CSHA MANDATE

Promote the involvement of clergy and laity in caring for the needs of others according to the Gospel teachings and Tradition of the Church.



**CSHA is a clearinghouse of resources
provided by and for people of all ages.**



CSHA also promotes programs and support for
Orthodox agencies, U.S. and worldwide humanitarian organizations.



IOCC

Helping others help themselves

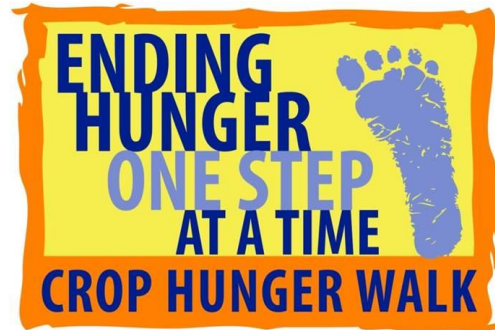
INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES



CWS

FOCUS

NORTH + AMERICA



ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN PRISON MINISTRY
AN AGENCY OF THE ASSEMBLY OF BISHOPS

PARISH MINISTRY RESOURCES

The PMR is a collection of articles describing ways clergy and laity are successfully serving others in their parishes and in local and global outreach. New articles continue to be added to the online library.



There are nearly 300 PMR articles categorized under eight ministry themes:

- ❖ Theology of Lay Ministries
- ❖ Stewardship Education
- ❖ Parish Development
- ❖ Community Service
- ❖ Witness and Mission
- ❖ Family Life
- ❖ Youth and College Ministries
- ❖ Seniors

See them all at:
www.o.ca.org/parish-ministry

PMR 2015-2018

- [Personal Examination for Clergy and Church Workers](#) by Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko
- [Beyond Alcoholism: Other Addictions](#) by Albert S. Rossi, PhD
- [Parish to Parish: Mission and Ministry in the Diocese of the South](#) by Fr. William Mills
- [Personhood and an Aging Mind and Body](#) by Peter Kavanaugh (OCAMPR)
- [Expanding the Mission in the Jersey Shore Area](#) by Deacon Alexander Smida
- [Combating the Storm as a Frontline Responder](#) by V. Rev. Thomas Moore
- [Serving the Poor -- Orthodox Christians Coming Together as Community in Southwest Detroit](#) by Janet Damian
- [What's It Like? The Covenant House Sleep Out](#) by Fr. John Shimchick



- ❖ We welcome your feedback on articles.
- ❖ Are there programs in your home parishes that could be highlighted in the PMR?
- ❖ Contact us at csha@oca.org

ORTHODOX LIVING WILL

“A GIFT FOR MY LOVED ONES”
“ANOTHER GIFT FOR MY LOVED ONES”

For people of all ages and their families



ORTHODOX LIVING WILL

Two legal documents to assist in making faith-informed decisions on end-of-life care and after-death issues:

- ❖ Healthcare Power of Attorney
- ❖ Advance Directive for Health Care Decisions
- ❖ Advance Directive for Funeral Care

TASK FORCE:

Archpriest Thomas Moore,
Priest Paul Fetsko,
Deacon Mark Barna and
Mr. Nicholas Ressetar

Find on oca.org:

“About the OCA” ~ Documents ~ Tools



The background of the slide features a close-up of two hands, one from the top right and one from the bottom left, reaching towards each other. A bright, ethereal light emanates from the space between the palms, creating a soft glow with hints of blue and yellow. The overall tone is hopeful and spiritual.

COMPASSION IN ACTION:

PARISH MINISTRY TRAINING



COMPASSION IN ACTION: PARISH MINISTRY TRAINING

Compassion in Action is a ministry of personal presence ~ of empathy, compassion and listening provided by the faithful to someone who is suffering mentally, emotionally, physically and/or spiritually.

Faithful are trained and supervised to visit and provide Orthodox Christian care to hurting brothers and sisters in the parish, or to neighbors in the community.



The focus of a CiA Ministry is a visit – an attentive Orthodox caring presence for one who is suffering in some way.

“To clarify, this ministry of caregiving does not focus on ‘doing things’ for the sufferer, e.g. cleaning the house, helping him/her get into the shower but, rather, focuses upon the care receiver’s need for an Orthodox person’s presence as the center and sole reason for the visit.”

~ Excerpt from Concept Booklet





With the Blessing of the Diocesan Bishop~

Participating parishes have access to the
CiA DEVELOPMENT KIT website including:

- ❖ Exercises and activities to begin the process
- ❖ Materials to aid in discernment
- ❖ A Development Mentor is assigned as a guide.
- ❖ A Skills Trainer follows to prepare clergy and volunteers to launch and sustain the program.

CiA STATUS REPORT

- ❖ Nancy Van Dyken is the new Director;
- ❖ Funding for one year was graciously donated by Archpriest John and Popadija Katherine Vitko;
- ❖ Mentors are being recruited to serve in CiA development and skills training; His Beatitude recommends one in each OCA diocese;
- ❖ Compassion in Action article by Dn. Michael Schlaak is newly published in the PMR;
- ❖ Currently working with two parishes w/ goals to expand.

St. Mary Magdalene Church
Fenton, MI (Bulgarian Diocese)
First Pilot Program



YOU'RE INVITED

Meet with us at the
19th All American Council:

Thursday, July 26
4:30 – 5:45 pm
“Texas Special Room”

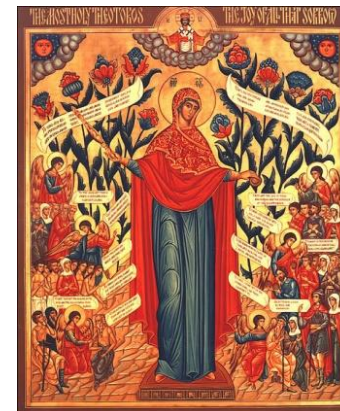


Visit us at our new website:

<https://seth-earl-j3wl.squarespace.com/>



“OCA Parish Ministry”



LOOKING TO 2019 ...



“LET US RISE UP AND LET US BUILD!”

Reflection on the Four Pillars and Apostolic Work of the Church



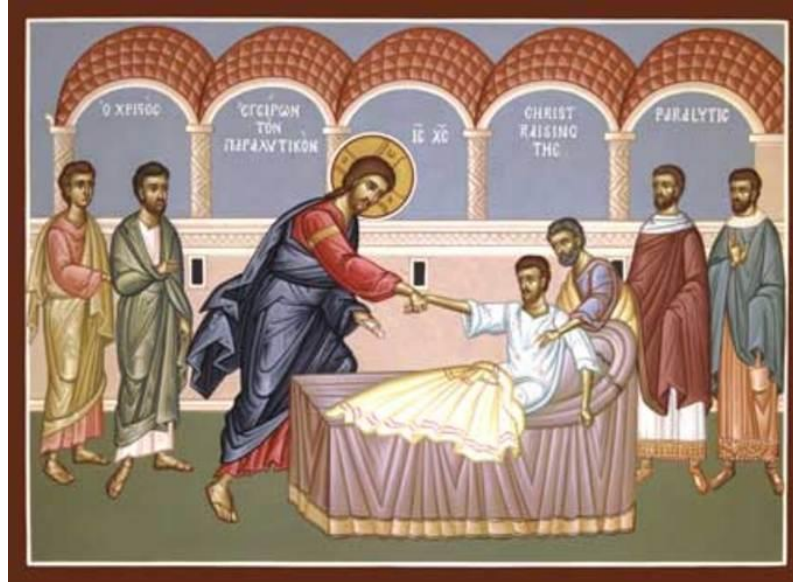
Nehemiah was a layman dedicated to God and to serving His people. He sets an example of discernment and dedication, patience and perseverance, being guided by prayer and love.

Orthodox Study Bible, pp 549-51

“And I told them of the hand of God which is good upon me ... So I said, ‘Let us rise up and let us build!’ And their hands were strengthened for good work.”

Nehemiah 2:18

“GO AND DO LIKEWISE” Luke 10:37



FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD

Department of Continuing Education

Fr. Ian Pac-Urar

Director



St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018

Department of Evangelization

Fr. John Parker

Chair



St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018

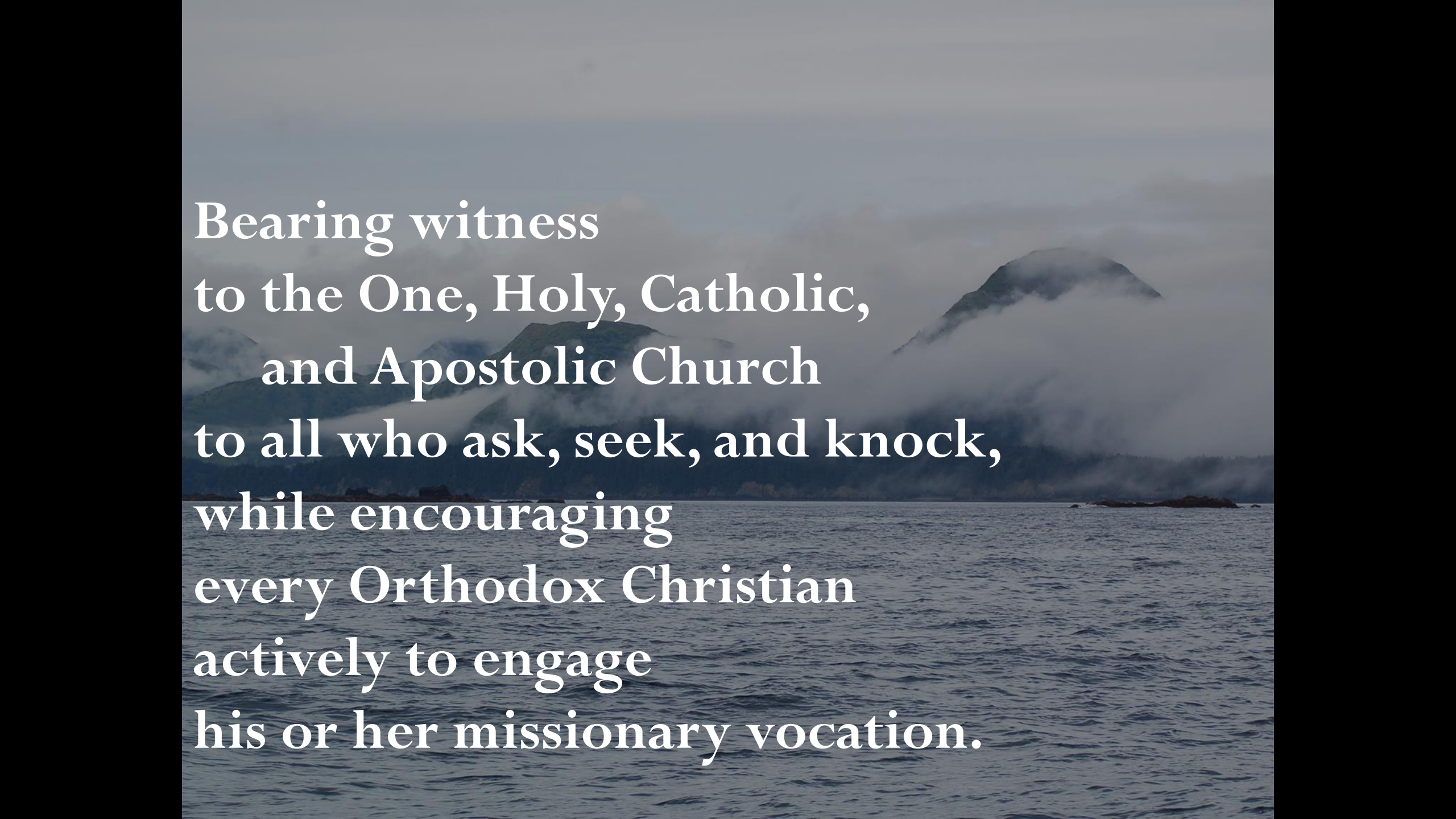
DEPARTMENT OF EVANGELIZATION

*"Go home to your friends,
and tell them how much
the Lord has done for you"*

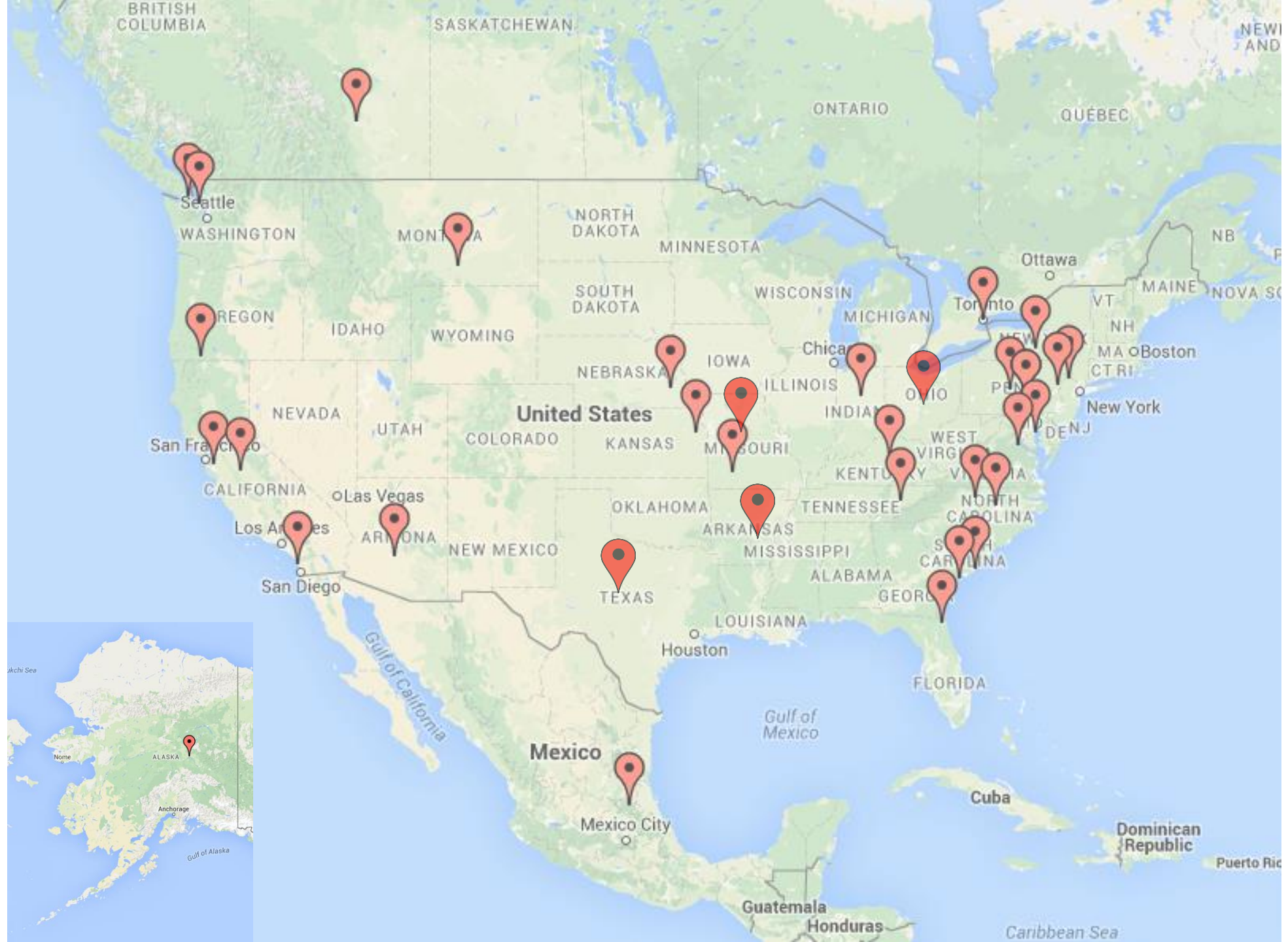
-Mark 5:19



www.goodnews.oca.org

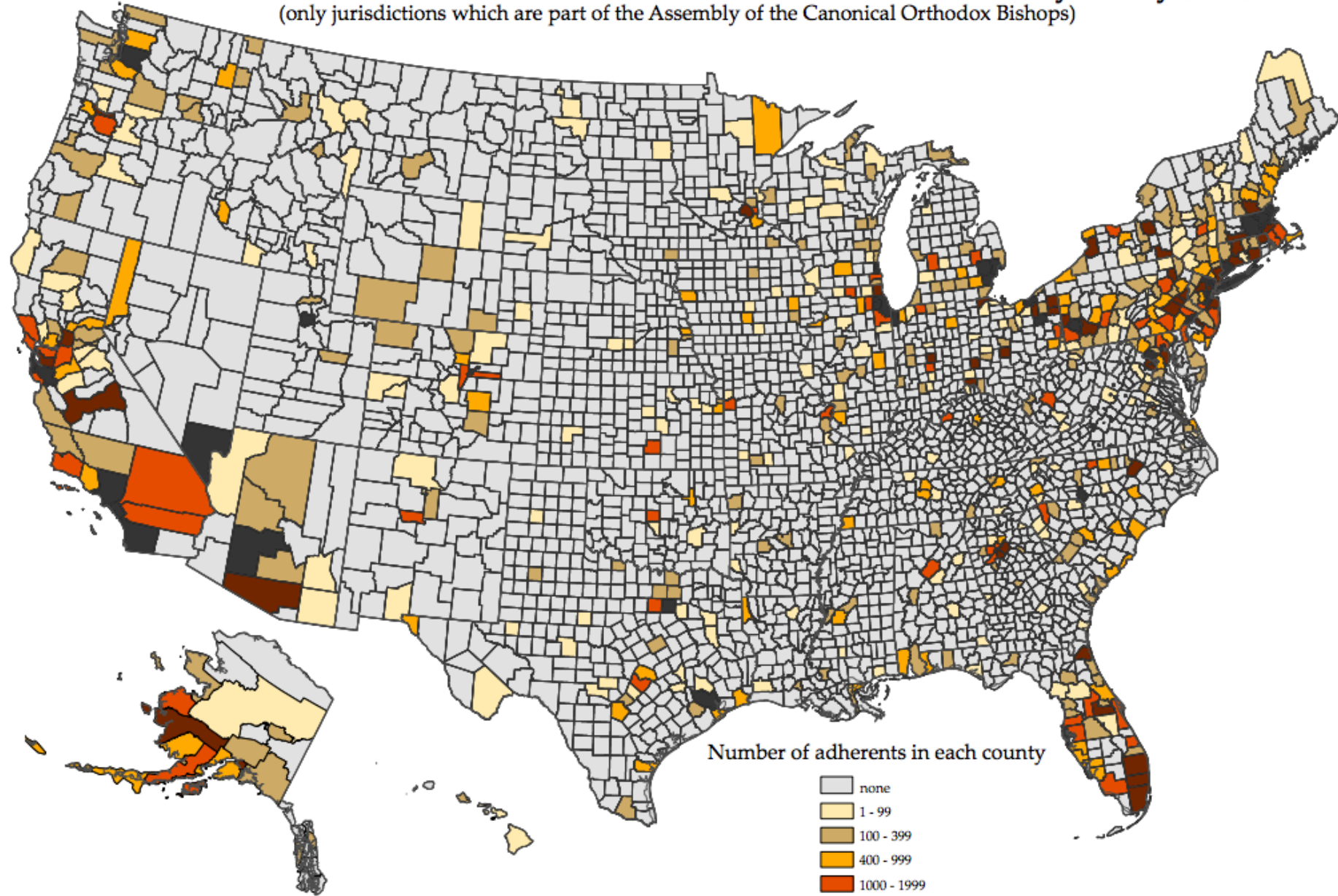
The background image is a photograph of a coastal scene. In the foreground, there is a body of water with small, dark ripples. In the middle ground, a range of mountains or hills is visible, partially obscured by thick, white mist or low-hanging clouds. The sky is a pale, overcast grey. The overall mood is serene and somewhat somber due to the muted colors and the presence of the mist.

Bearing witness
to the One, Holy, Catholic,
and Apostolic Church
to all who ask, seek, and knock,
while encouraging
every Orthodox Christian
actively to engage
his or her missionary vocation.



Orthodox Christian Churches in the United States: Number of Adherents by County (2010)

(only jurisdictions which are part of the Assembly of the Canonical Orthodox Bishops)



Source of data: 2010 US National Orthodox Census / 2010 Religious Congregation Membership Study
Copyright by Alexei D. Krindatch

1,900 parishes and 797,500 adherents total. Present in 626 counties





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LOONEY
TUNES

MARVIN

The
MARTIAN



JPC#ARCH 2018

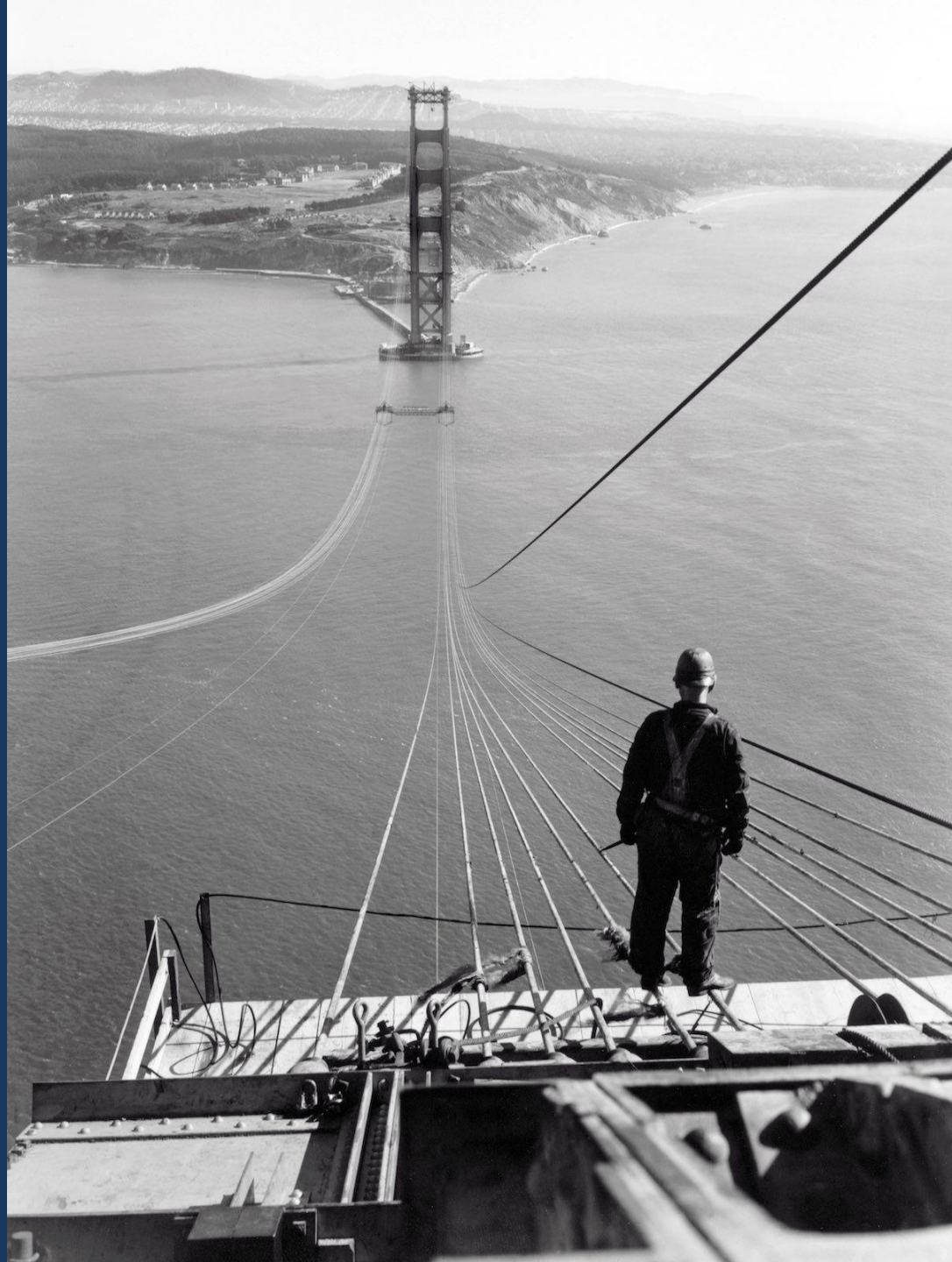




Strategic Goal
External:

Build bridges
TO
Orthodoxy

“Orthodoxy is
for everyone.”



Strategic Goals

Internal:

MISSION

(Plant Churches in
strategic locations)

Transmission

(“Go, Make Disciples, baptizing...”)

Submission

(“...teaching them to obey
all I have commanded...”)




Strategic Goals

Internal:

Remission

re·mis·sion

/rə'mɪʃ(ə)n/ 

noun

the cancellation of a debt, charge, or penalty.

"the plan allows for the partial remission of tuition fees"

synonyms: **cancellation**, setting aside, **suspension**, **revocation**; *formal* **abrogation**

"the remission of all fees"

- a diminution of the seriousness or intensity of disease or pain; a temporary recovery.

"ten out of twenty patients remained **in remission**"

synonyms: **respite**, **abeyance**

"the cancer is in remission"

- *formal*

forgiveness of sins.

synonyms: **forgiveness**, pardoning, **absolution**, **exoneration**; *formal* **exculpation**

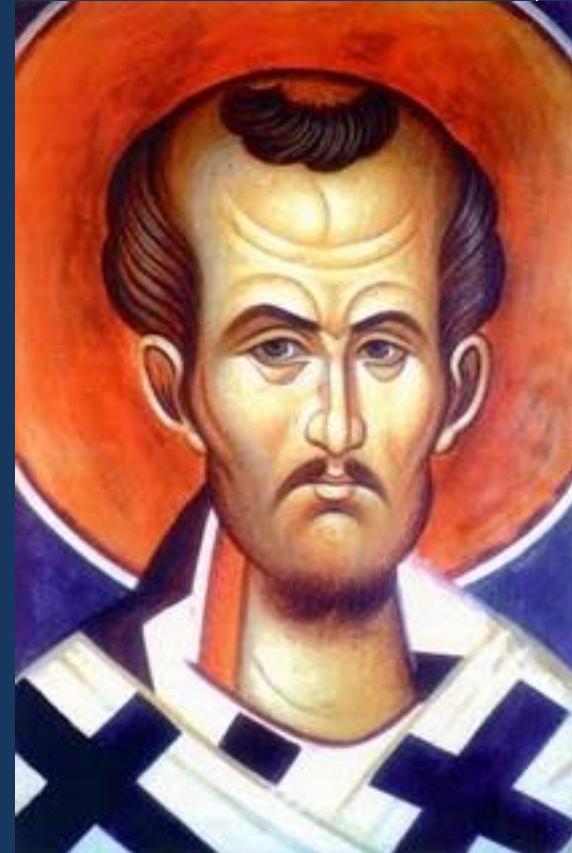
"the remission of sins"

ARE YOU A TRUE CHRISTIAN?

St John Chrysostom On Evangelism

“Nothing is more frigid
than a Christian who is
indifferent to the
salvation of others.”

Quoted in: [On Living Simply](#), p.25, a paraphrase of Homily XX on Acts IX: 10, 12



ARE YOU A TRUE CHRISTIAN?

St John Chrysostom On Evangelism

“So the Christian feels compelled to speak to others about the law of love, *and the joy of obeying this law.*”

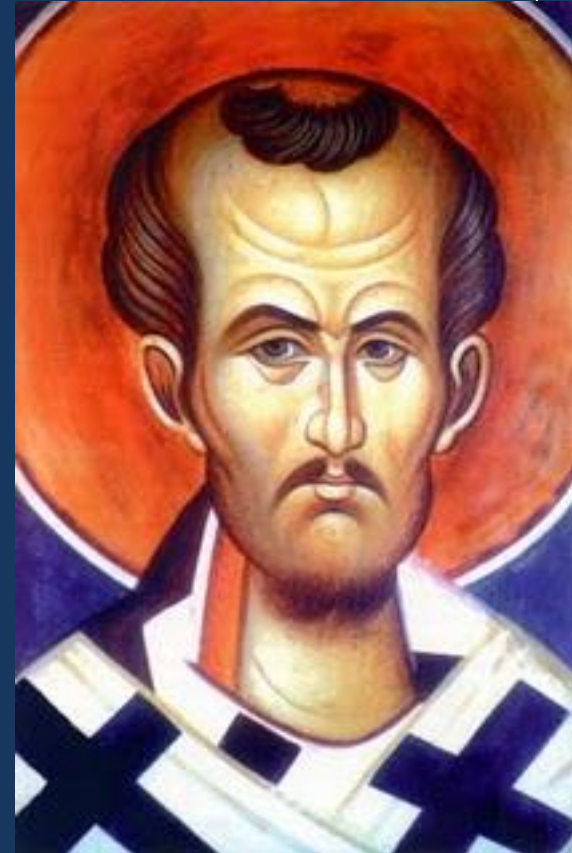


Quoted in: [On Living Simply](#), p.25, a paraphrase of Homily XX on Acts IX: 10, 12

ARE YOU A TRUE CHRISTIAN?

St John Chrysostom On Evangelism

“There is no need to use fine words or elegant phrases; even the most uneducated people can convey joyful love by the spirit which accompanies their words. Even slaves have been known to convert their masters and mistresses by the sincerity of their speech.”



Quoted in: [On Living Simply](#), p.25, a paraphrase of Homily XX on Acts IX: 10, 12

1. What is one way that God is working in your very own life?
2. And what is one way that He is working in the life of your parish or mission?
3. Homework: share this with one person.



DEPARTMENT OF EVANGELIZATION

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

[Good News Journal](#) [Alaskan Roots](#) [Planting Grants](#) [Parish Church Health](#) [Español](#) [Russian](#) [Resources](#)

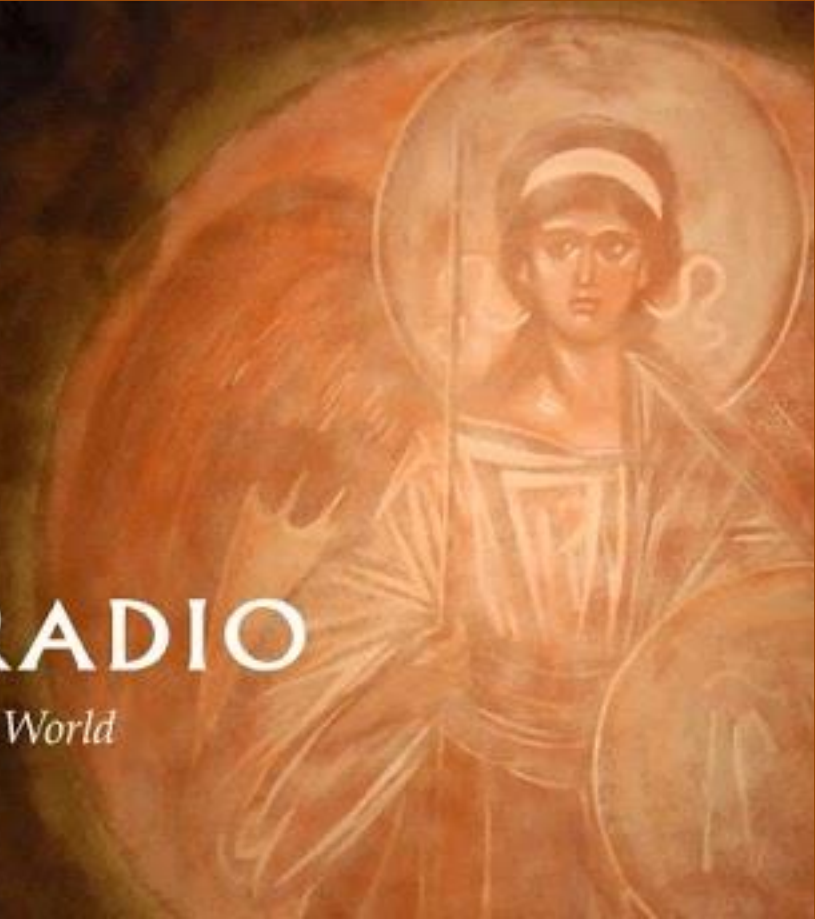


www.goodnews.oca.org



ANCIENT FAITH RADIO

Bringing the Ancient Christian Faith to the Modern World



Thanks to Ancient Faith Radio
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DEPARTMENT OF EVANGELIZATION

*"Go home to your friends,
and tell them how much
the Lord has done for you"*

-Mark 5:19



www.goodnews.oca.org

Department of Liturgical Music and Translations

Dr. David Drillock

Chair



St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018

Department of Pastoral Life

Hieromonk Nikodhim (Preston)

Administrator



St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018

Department of Youth and Young Adults

Fr. Christopher Rowe

Chair



St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA)

Marge Kovach
President



St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018

Presentation to the
19th All American Council
of the
Orthodox Church in America

Thursday, July 26, 2018

To Witness Our Faith by Charitable Works Through Fellowship

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America



Overview

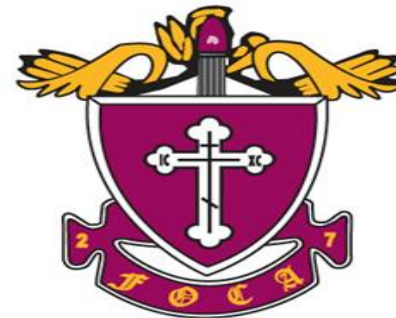
Throughout our history, the FROC/FOCA has served an important role in assisting in the work of the Church

❖ We are:

❖ What we do:

❖ How we do it:

To Witness Our Faith by Charitable Works Through Fellowship



National Executive Board

Spiritual Advisor - V. Rev. Theodore Boback, *Baltimore, Maryland*

President - Marge Kovach, *Bayonne, New Jersey*

Vice President - Allison Steffaro, *South River, New Jersey*

Secretary - Danielle Ilchuk, *Ambridge, Pennsylvania*

Treasurer - Michael Bowan, *Chicago, Illinois*

Immediate Past President - Becky Tesar, *Cleveland, Ohio*

To Witness Our Faith by Charitable Works Through Fellowship



Charitable Efforts

- ❖ United Fund/St. Andrew Appeal
- ❖ Gifts of Love
- ❖ Educational Scholarships
- ❖ Seminarian Support

To Witness Our Faith by Charitable Works Through Fellowship



Gifts of Love

Annual dedicated appeal supporting a specific fund or organization

Past recipients include:

- ZOE for Life!
- St. Vladimir's Camp & Retreat Center
- Winnipeg's Blessed Arseny Institute
- St. Herman Seminary, Alaska

To Witness Our Faith by Charitable Works Through Fellowship



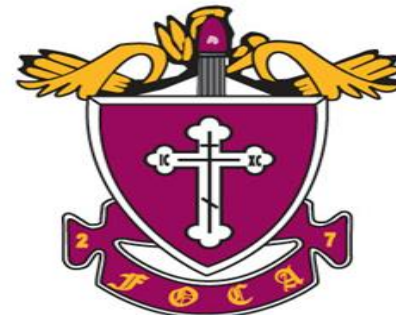
2015

Gifts of Love Project

Providing Orthodox service member kits for military chaplains



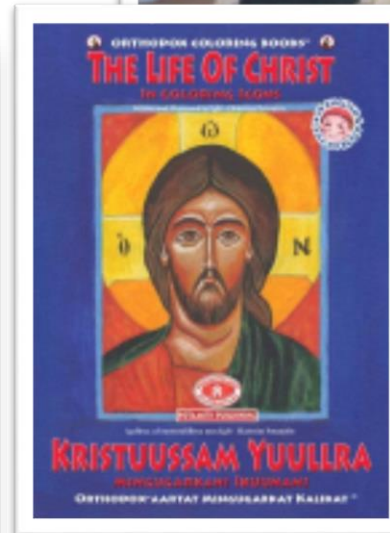
To Witness Our Faith by Charitable Works Through Fellowship



2016

Gifts of Love Project

\$10,000 for printing English/Yupik
language religious education
coloring books for children in
Western Alaska



To Witness Our Faith by Charitable Works Through Fellowship



ST. NICHOLAS RUSSIAN ORTHODOX MEMORIAL CHAPEL

2017

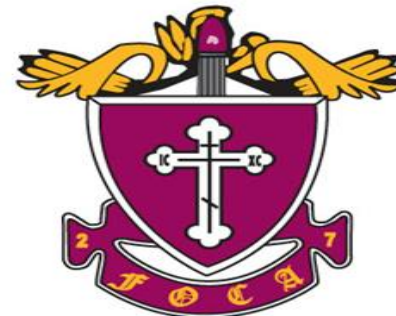
Gifts of Love Project

\$12,500 presented to the Diocese of
Alaska toward the renovation and
rehabilitation of St. Nicholas Chapel in
Kenai, Alaska



*A National Historic Landmark
Kenai, Alaska*

To Witness Our Faith by Charitable Works Through Fellowship



2018 Gifts of Love Project



More than \$19,000 raised for International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)
to support hurricane relief efforts



To Witness Our Faith by Charitable Works Through Fellowship



Educational Scholarships

Providing national scholarship opportunities since 1947

- ❖ More than 1,000 national scholarships presented
 - Over \$445,000 awarded to date
- ❖ Additional scholarships granted by individual districts

To Witness Our Faith by Charitable Works Through Fellowship



Seminarian Support

- ❖ St. Nicholas Appeal (*since 2000*)
 - Distributing gifts for children of seminarian families
- ❖ “Adopt A Seminarian” (*since 2002*)
 - Financial assistance to seminary students in need throughout the academic year
- ❖ St. Herman Seminary
 - \$25,000 purchase of a Chevy Blazer in 2004
- ❖ St. Tikhon’s Seminary
 - \$300,000 pledge for Married Student Housing Project completed in 2015

To Witness Our Faith by Charitable Works Through Fellowship



Golf Tournaments



Sports tournaments are held on district and national levels



Bowling Tournaments



Tournaments attract participants of all ages and abilities

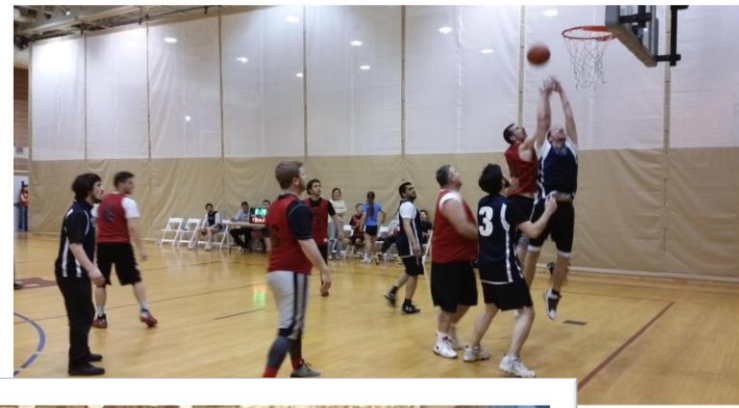


Basketball Tournaments



Basketball is the FOCA's largest annual gathering of youth

Participants travel the distance to be together for a weekend of friendly competition, fellowship, and worship



Camp Programs



St. Vladimir's Camp in Farmdale, Ohio

owned and operated by

The Ohio District of the FOCA

To Witne



Celebration of Faith Contest

2018 Topic: For The Life Of The World

- ❖ Youth invited to create and submit a project in any of the following areas:
 - Literature
 - Musical Composition
 - Photography
 - Visual Arts

- ❖ Open to all youth who are communicants in a parish or mission of a canonical Orthodox Church in North America.

To Witness Our Faith by Charitable Works Through Fellowship



Conventions



District and National Conventions convene annually to discuss the business matters of the Fellowship

Historic firsts:

2015 - 89th National FOCA Convention held in conjunction with OCA 18th AAC in Atlanta, GA

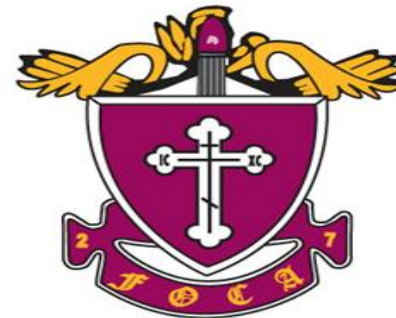
2016 - First Youth Council held in conjunction with 90th National FOCA Convention in Chicago, IL



Future Initiatives

- ❖ Choir Conference(s)/Workshops
- ❖ Leadership Workshop
- ❖ Youth Rally

To Witness Our Faith by Charitable Works Through Fellowship



Summary

We are thankful for the continued support of the Metropolitan Council, The Holy Synod, and especially our Spiritual Leader, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to promoting fellowship and the joining together of Orthodox Christians in service to others.

Metropolitan TIKHON, Primate



September 3, 2017
09/004

To the Rectors and Pastors of the Orthodox Church in America:

Dear Fathers, Beloved in the Lord,

Since its founding, the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America has been engaged in expanding the mission of Christ's Church here in North America, and has been a key partner in the evangelistic work of the Orthodox Church in America. By being one of the first organizations to make available Orthodox literature in the English Language; by producing and publishing Sunday School materials, and by training and encouraging a generation of young people in the sacred choral traditions of our Orthodox Church FOCA has established itself as one of the most important fellowships of the Orthodox Church in America.

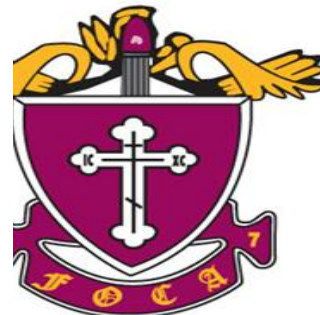
As the fellowship celebrates over ninety years of service to the Orthodox Church we anticipate the work of FOCA will continue to bear fruit most especially in working with our youth and young adults, and with continued charitable efforts on behalf of our seminaries and mission parishes. The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America has always served, embraced and welcomed all members of the Orthodox Church in America. We invite every member of the Orthodox Church in America to inquire into the good works of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America so that those works might be multiplied across the entirety of the Orthodox Church in America.

By working together, we can more easily continue on our path to expand the mission of Christ and His Church here in North America. We hope you will consider offering your time and talents to the fellowship and become part of the great legacy that is the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America.

In Christ,

+ Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

P.O. Box 675 Syosset, New York, 11791
516-922-0550 - metropolitan@oca.org - www.oca.org



**PRAY
STUDY
TOIL
BE TEMPERATE**

To Witness Our Faith by Charitable Works Through Fellowship



Election Results

Fr. Daniel Mathewson

Chair of the Tellers Committee



St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018

Resolutions

Fr. James Parnell

Chair of the Resolutions Committee



St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018

Resolution Procedures

- Article III, Section 14 states, “Resolutions and decisions made in plenary sessions of the All-American Council shall require a majority vote...”
- All resolutions are open to debate and amendments from the floor. General principles of parliamentary law will be followed
- Ten speakers with three minutes each. Five in favor and five against
- Chair may call upon experts who are not considered part of the ten speakers
- Chair may allow a five minute round table discussion
- Resolutions may be held over for redrafting
- Simple majority passes resolution. Holy Synod must bless for the resolution to become valid

Reflection on Grateful, Optimistic Openness

Fr. Alexis Trader

Sacred Monastery of St. Demetrios

Mount Athos



St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018

Housekeeping



St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018

Plenary Session 7 Tomorrow at 9:30 AM

Grand Ballroom



St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018